



**BPAC Policy Subcommittee Meeting
December 7, 2022 10:05 am to 10:55 am
Online Zoom Meeting**

Attendees:

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- Ayla Schermer
- Corey Hannigan, NV5
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
- Jackie Bavaro, YMCA Alliance
- Jacob Thompson, Rutgers-VTC
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Jim Hunt, Morris County
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Kimberley Irby, New Jersey Future
- Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Sangeeta Badlani, Families for Safe Streets
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Tricia Dunkak, New Jersey Future

Meeting notes:

RSIS Recap - Next Steps

- The final Residential Site Improvement Standards report is available on the NJ Safe Routes website: [Proposed Updates to the NJ Residential Site Improvement Standards](#)
- This report will be a useful resource for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the state, as many municipal ordinances reference RSIS.
- Next step is to submit this report to NJDCA's Site Improvement Advisory Board.
 - New Jersey Future, Jersey City, or another non-state entity are appropriate candidates to submit the report to the NJDCA [Site Improvement Advisory Board](#).
 - New Jersey Future and Jersey City will connect offline to coordinates submitting the report to Site Improvement Advisory Board Vice-Chair Janice Talley.
- Updates to RSIS could be included as a session topic at a future APA-NJ/Redevelopment Forum or League of Municipalities conference.

[Healthy New Jersey 2030](#) Goals and Priorities

- Jackie Bavaro chairs the Community Services and Programs team within the Healthy Communities Equitable Access ACT.
 - The team is tasked with creating equitable access to resources, services, and programs within a local community.
 - Existing programs and resources may be underutilized because:
 - People might not be aware they exist.
 - People may face barriers in accessing them (e.g., lack of internet access).
 - The team is also tasked with identifying gaps where programs to support local communities' health and well-being do not yet exist.
 - The team also focuses on connecting people with state and local health services, examining the impacts of social isolation, and promoting access to healthcare, healthy food, education, employment, and childcare.
 - The team identified the need to incorporate transportation issues as they relate to health. The goal is to identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration without duplicating actions in existing transportation plans.
- NJDOT's goal of zero roadway deaths by 2050 is important to include in the plan, but it may fall under the Injury Prevention Action Team.
- Goals for Healthy Communities Equitable Access Act include:
 - Access to Transportation (carless households, equity)
 - Affordable Transportation Options
 - Access Health Resources
 - Healthcare
 - Healthy Food
 - Childcare
 - Education & Employment
- Subcommittee members recommended ways to incorporate linkages between health and transportation.
 - There should be a goal related to improvements to the physical environment that promote active transportation, which touches on safety, accessibility, and mobility.
 - There is a need to bring more health data into transportation decision-making, although transportation professionals and advocates do not always know which data to look at.
 - Jersey City is beginning to work more with their local Health Department on Vision Zero efforts.
 - Jersey City has been using health data to assist with injury and fatality prevention, but there remain more opportunities to use health data to identify priority areas with greatest needs for transportation improvements.
 - Greater awareness is needed for programs that already exist.
 - For example, New Jersey Transit has paratransit services available to assist mothers with access to healthcare.
 - There also may be opportunities to improve existing programs, such as those that provide transit passes to children in foster care.

- The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition conducted community engagement around the Essex Hudson Greenway and found a lot of interest from the health community.
 - An active transportation corridor provides open space for exercise, access for those who do not own cars, and improved air quality through reduced emissions.
 - There is a great opportunity to partner with local health facilities when developing active transportation plans.
 - There is a desire to explore how to help the health community initiate more action at the local level (e.g., Mayor's wellness groups).
 - There is also an overlap with economic development.
- The health community could support infill/urban redevelopment projects and help the public understand how these types of projects can support health through shorter trips, improved connectivity and air quality, and reduced auto-dependency.
- There is an opportunity to explore more institutional partnerships at the local level (e.g., Atlantic Health).
- New Jersey Future has worked with Sustainable Jersey on an action focused on Community Design for All Ages, using Smart Growth principles to help communities implement physical changes in conjunction with social support changes that make communities more livable.
 - New Jersey Future studied what makes a place great for aging and found Smart Growth to be an essential component. NJF developed a classification system with key metrics for Smart Growth which can be used for a wide range of projects.
- There are opportunities for NJDOH to publicly and strongly support Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Smart Growth, and other initiatives where transportation and health overlap. There is also an opportunity to talk more about transportation safety improvements as cost-saving measures.
- The Healthy New Jersey team will start with identifying opportunities for collaboration, shared data, and active engagement between the health and transportation worlds.

Legislative Updates

- The New Jersey Vision Zero Alliance is working on a bill to propose the creation of a cross-agency Vision Zero Commission that would include agency and advocate representatives.
 - The bill is currently in the Office of Legislative Services and is expected to come out of both committees in February 2023.
- Several legislators have proposed a mandatory adult helmet law for bicyclists.
 - The League of American Bicyclists and the Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals have come out nationally against mandatory helmet laws due to unintended consequences, especially with disproportionate policing of people in minority neighborhoods for minor traffic violations.
 - The NJ Bike & Walk Coalition is also opposed to mandatory helmet laws.

Other Comments

- There is an opportunity to study the Essex Hudson Greenway through a pre- and post-construction health impact assessment. The assessment could examine how the greenway affects physical activity, commuting patterns, carbon sequestration, stormwater management, etc.
- New Jersey Future is studying warehouses, Complete Streets and freight, identifying legislative opportunities to accommodate various modes of transportation.
- NJ Bike & Walk Coalition has access to a legislation tracker for future Policy subcommittee meetings.
- **Invite Shazia Khizir to a future Policy subcommittee meeting to explain the State Highway Crash Data SHSP action and discuss opportunities for the Policy subcommittee to support this action.**

Year-End Subcommittee Wrap-Up

1. Initiated a discussion on bicycle- and pedestrian-oriented changes to Title 39, Parking Protected Bike Lanes and Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) that resulted in a presentation and two research reports:
 - a. [Proposed Updates to NJ Residential Site Improvement Standards presentation](#)
 - b. [Proposed Updates to NJ Residential Site Improvement Standards report](#)
 - c. Title 39 and Parking-Protected Bike Lanes (in progress)
2. Members contributed to the NJ SHSP by providing feedback on reports on:
 - a. [Automated Speed Enforcement](#)
 - b. [Vulnerable Road User Laws](#)
 - c. [Residential Site Improvement Standards research](#)
3. Coordinated with fellow members on Safe Passing Law education and outreach rollout
 - a. Distribution of educational materials
 - b. Opportunities for partnerships
4. Discussed legislation relevant to walking and bicycling to review and flag
5. Discussed a pilot program for automated speed enforcement using Safe Streets and Roads for All funding
6. Identified the need for a resource explaining the various policies and legislation in NJ that regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, including Residential Site Improvement Standards, Municipal Land Use Law, Title 39, Access Code, and the Functional Classification System

Subcommittee Goals for 2023

- Find a new Policy Subcommittee Chair
- Share a policy and legislation tracker for relevant bills in the NJ Legislature.
- Study and provide insight into the new federal legislation (BIL/IIJA) and its impact on future policy.
- Work with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Complete Streets Task Force on Adopting a Complete and Green Streets Ordinance Toolkit.

- Develop or update a primer about various policies and legislation in NJ that regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, including Residential Site Improvement Standards, Municipal Land Use Law, Title 39, Access Code, and the Functional Classification System.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Bicycle and Pedestrian Emphasis Area Goals

- The Policy subcommittee can provide feedback and input on the next round of Strategic Highway Safety Plan Bicycle and Pedestrian Emphasis Area actions:
 - Develop recommendations for education and outreach on recent updates to laws and regulations related to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters - led by Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
 - i. Engage the Motor Vehicle Commission on recent updates to laws and regulations related to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters that should be reflected in driver education and testing.
 - ii. Make recommendations regarding educational outreach to the public.
 - Research best practices for sharing state highway crash data and crash-prone state highway corridors - led by Shazia Khizir, NJDOT

Action Items

- Work with NJDOT to identify a new subcommittee chair.
- Locate and review the older version of documents explaining various policies and legislation in NJ that regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues.
 - A Citizen's Guide to Better Streets: How to engage your transportation agency
<http://880cities.org/images/resource/park-space-anti/citizen-guide-better-streets.pdf>
 - The Master Plan: Smart Growth, the Master Plan & Environmental Protection (ANJEC)
http://anjec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SG_MasterPlan.pdf
 - Get Active NJ Walkability Toolkit (NJ Prevention Network)
- Invite Shazia Khizir to a future Policy subcommittee meeting to explain the State Highway Crash Data SHSP action and discuss opportunities for the Policy subcommittee to support this action.